

REMARKS and ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 9-16 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 17 has been previously canceled.

Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1.

Claims 1, 2 and 8 have been amended.

Claims 18 - 21 are newly added claims.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,825,943), hereinafter “Barry” in view of Adobe PostScript, hereinafter “Adobe PostScript.”

Independent claim 1 has been amended and comprises the elements of:

- from said spool data file, creating a page-independent index file comprising a first plurality of records, wherein each record in said first plurality of records comprises location information and extraction information for an associated portion of said spool data in said spool data file;
- manipulating said first plurality of records in said page-independent index file to define a collated, face-up print job, thereby producing a manipulated page-independent index file;
- from a print processor, accessing said manipulated page-independent index file to determine portions of said spool data in said spool data file required for said collated, face-up print job;

- from said spool data file, extracting said portions of said spool data in said spool data file required for said collated, face-up print job, thereby producing combined spool data for said collated, face-up print job; and
- converting said combined spool data to printer-ready data

which are elements not taught in the combination of Barry and Adobe PostScript.

The elements of independent claim 1, as amended, together define a page-independent index file formed from the spool data in a spool data file. The page-independent index file comprises records, each of which associates location information and extraction information with a portion of the spool data. This page-independent index file may be manipulated to form a manipulated, page-independent index file that defines a collated, face-up print job. A print processor extracts, from the spool data file, the portions of the spool data required for the collated, face-up print job by accessing the manipulated page-independent index file to determine the portions of the spool data required for the collated, face-up print job, and then these portions are converted to printer-ready data. Therefore, the spool data required for the collated, face-up print job is accessed from the spool data file indirectly through the manipulated page-index file. The combination of Barry and PostScript does not disclose access of spool data for conversion to printer-ready data through an intermediate file of any sort, in particular an index file. Additionally, the combination of Barry and PostScript does not teach an index file in any form, in particular an index file with entries associated with portions of spool data.

Barry discloses a system and method for parallel conversion processing of a print job in a print system having a plurality of RIP engines [ABSTRACT]. Barry does not teach an index file in any form, in particular an index file with entries associated with portions of spool data. Furthermore, Barry does not access the print spool data by indirect access through another file in which the other file indicates the portions of spool data file required for the print job. Barry teaches partitioning a print job into select portions according to defined boundaries, generating a substitute RIP instruction for each select portion of the print job, and processing the RIP requirements of each select portion in one of the plurality of RIP engines according to the substitute RIP instructions [at least, ABSTRACT]. The system of Barry configures a substitute

RIP instruction to accompany the select portion of the print job file [column 7, lines 40-42]. This substitute RIP instruction is appended to the select portion of the print job file [column 7, lines, 60-64]. The system of Barry distributes each of the select portions to an associated RIP engine to perform the conversion processing step [column 8, 4-11]. The portions of the print job file in Barry are accessed *directly* [emphasis added] from the print job file, which may have substitute RIP instructions, and the portions of the print job file in Barry are not accessed via an index file indexing these portions. Furthermore there is, in PostScript, no suggestion or motivation to access print job data portions indirectly. Nor is there a suggestion to modify any file to make it an index file. The combination of Barry and PostScript does not teach assembly of portions of the original spool data into a new configuration based on an index file.

Thus as argued above, the combination of Barry and PostScript does not teach the element of “from said spool data file, creating a page-independent index file comprising a first plurality of records, wherein each record in said first plurality of records comprises location information and extraction information for an associated portion of said spool data;” as found in amended claim 1. Nor, as argued above and in view of the lack of an index file in the combination of Barry and PostScript, does the combination of Barry and PostScript teach the claim elements “manipulating said first plurality of records in said page-independent index file to define a collated, face-up print job, thereby producing a manipulated page-independent index file;” and “from a print processor, accessing said manipulated page-independent index file to determine portions of said spool data in said spool data file required for said collated, face-up print job;” and “from said spool data file, extracting said portions of said spool data in said spool data file required for said collated, face-up print job, thereby producing combined spool data for said collated, face-up print job;” of amended claim 1.

Independent claim 1 is therefore allowable in amended form, and the applicant respectfully requests the rejection of this claim be withdrawn. Claims 2-7 are dependent on independent claim 1 and therefore comprise all the limitations therein. Therefore, claims 2-7 are allowable, and the application respectfully requests the rejection of claims 2-7 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 8 has been amended and comprises the elements of:

- from said spool data file, creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file comprising a first plurality of records, wherein each record in said first plurality of records comprises location information and extraction information for an associated portion of said spool data in said spool data file;
- allowing manipulation of said first plurality of records in said PISF index file to define a collated, face-up print job, thereby producing a manipulated PISF index file;
- from a print processor, accessing said manipulated PISF index file to determine portions of said spool data required for said collated, face-up print job;
- from said spool data file, extracting said portions of said spool data in said spool data file required for said collated, face-up print job, thereby producing combined spool data for said collated, face-up print job; and
- converting said combined spool data to printer-ready data

which are elements not taught in the combination of Barry and Adobe PostScript, as argued above with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 8 is currently allowable, and the applicant respectfully requests the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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